

Heron Hill Primary School Foundation Stage

Nursery

2023-2024



Information Booklet
For the Parents/Carers of

Heron Hill Nursery

Our recently extended nursery building is set in the grounds of Heron Hill Primary School. We may not be joined to the main school but we have access to all the resources and space which includes the school hall, music room and quiet garden. We have our own separate outside play area that has a boat accessed by a small jetty, a mud kitchen and lots of grassy areas to explore. In addition to the grassy areas we also have a secret garden where the children can look for fairies, play music and be creative with the natural items that surround them.



Nursery is enclosed by a safe boundary within the school grounds and there is a path that leads to the nursery entrance. Once inside the building, the children are welcomed into a stimulating environment that will provide a safe haven for them to flourish. The classroom is split into two large areas offering a vast amount of space. This space offers a variety of play areas, for example we have construction, role-play, puppet theatre, science den, craft, small world, dressing up... and that is only a small selection of what the children can explore. Each area stays the same so the children become familiar with their surroundings and the resources, this will help support their learning by encouraging them to be independent learners. We hope our space makes every child feel at ease to be themselves, confident to try new things and motivated to learn.

Our aims are to achieve the following:

- To ensure your child's first experience of nursery is a happy, fun and memorable one.
- To ensure that your child feels valued and respected as an individual and supported by positive role models.
- To develop positive relationships between home and nursery, where parent/carers are equal if not paramount in the development of their child's learning.
- To provide children with the time to become engrossed in what they are doing following their own interests with appropriate adult interaction and support.
- To monitor progress throughout the nursery year and provide necessary support if areas of concern have been identified.
- To nurture a true sense of community and belonging by promoting positive attitudes towards different feelings, cultures, abilities, needs and gender.



Nursery Induction

We have a carefully planned induction programme which aims to help children settle in confidently with the right support and time they need. We will come to your home first so the children begin to be familiar with us and this will be followed by a play in the nursery setting. Once your child starts we will work closely with you to make sure your child has a successful transition into nursery.

What your child will need for nursery

- A small draw string bag with a full change of clothes in case of accidents.
- A pair of wellies that will stay in nursery so that your child can experience outdoor play independently.
- A waterproof coat at all times with additional hats/gloves/caps depending on the weather.
- A water bottle with water - additional drinks can be put in lunch boxes.
- Apply all-day sun-cream before nursery begins during the summer term.
- Toys for comfort can be brought to nursery particularly at the beginning of the year but we encourage children to leave them safely in their bags.

PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S ITEMS SO THAT BELONGINGS CAN BE RETURNED EASILY.

What to wear for Nursery

Although children are encouraged to wear aprons for any messy activity, it is inevitable that clothes sometimes get dirty. It is advisable they do not wear best clothes except on special occasions. Nursery staff are keen to promote independence and you can support children in developing the skills necessary to get dressed/undressed for outdoor play and toileting by sending them to nursery in velcro shoes, easy zips and trousers with elasticated waists. Please do not send children with laces or buckles.



Snack Time and Water Station

We have snack during every session and a selection of fruit is provided. The school provides milk through the 'Cool Milk' company which is free for all under-5 year olds. You will be invited to register your child and they will then receive a carton of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. We have a water station in nursery and children are encouraged to drink water during

the session.

Lunch Club

Children can bring a packed lunch or you can pre-order a hot school meal (we have a 3-week menu) at a cost of £2.20. School meals need to be ordered on-line and you will be given login details and instructions before you start. Water can be provided during lunch or alternatively you can provide a drink in their lunch box.

Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage framework is organised into seven areas of learning. It is designed to meet the diverse needs of all children through a series of stages leading to the Early Learning Goals.

The seven areas of learning are:

- Communication and Language**
- Physical Development**
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- Literacy**
- Mathematics**
- Understanding the World**
- Expressive Arts and Design**



We offer a relevant play-based curriculum that will provide children with a wide range of practical first-hand experiences and opportunities to repeat and practice new found skills. One activity or experience, whether planned by an adult or initiated by the child, may provide a number of opportunities that will develop skills from across all seven areas of learning. This holistic approach means your child will be learning through play without even realising it.



Key Worker

Whilst your child is playing, an adult will be there to either join in, support, encourage, question or challenge their learning to help them achieve their goal, or maybe the shared experience will provide a sense of security so your child will feel comfortable to have a go and this will hopefully promote an "I can do attitude". With this in mind we use a key worker system so your child will have a familiar adult who knows them really well.

Your child will be assigned a key worker when they start nursery, a member of staff who will work specifically with your child, tailoring the curriculum to enhance their learning. Miss Addison, the nursery teacher, has overall responsibility of all the children.



On-Line Learning Journey - Tapestry

All children attending nursery have a personal on-line Learning Journey which records photographs, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. We use Tapestry, a system which is hosted on secure servers in the EU. You will have secure access (via email address and password) to your child's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions, we encourage you to add to it by uploading photographs and comments, or commenting on observations made by us.

Your child is also welcome to bring in items to share, things like certificates, medals, photographs or something of personal importance.

Dropping Off and Collecting

Due to the large numbers of parents and children arriving and departing at the main school at the start and end of each day, it is unreasonable to expect all nursery children to arrive at the same time. Although we have set times for the start and end of each session, we suggest that the first and last 15 minutes of each session is a flexible time during which children should be expected to arrive and leave.

Holidays and Absences

If you are going to take your child out of nursery for appointments, please let staff know. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office. It helps with our planning if you give us, in writing, at least 4 weeks' notice of term time holidays.



If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they will need to be kept at home while they are being ill and for at least 24 hours following the last bout of ill health to avoid infecting others. If there is an outbreak of a particularly infectious bug, we will extend the exclusion period to 48 hours, which is the Cumbria County Council preferred exclusion time.

Nursery Provision and Additional Hours

We offer nursery provision for up to 30 hours in morning and afternoon 3 hourly sessions. All children are eligible for the 15 hours universal funded entitlement from the age of 3 years old. An additional 15 hours provision is available to parents who meet the eligibility criteria; please contact the school office for further details.

The following sessions are available during term time:

- morning sessions 8.45 am - 11.45 am (3 hours)
- afternoon sessions 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm (3 hours)
- lunchtime sessions 11.45 am - 12.30 pm (45 minutes)
- Full day sessions 8.45 am - 3.30 pm (6 hours 45 minutes)

Beyond your child's free entitlement of either 15 or 30 hours we can offer additional nursery provision at a cost to parents/carers. Charges are £4.00 per hour (£12.00 per session) and £3.00 for a lunchtime session. These additional sessions can be booked on a weekly, termly or annual basis. Please contact the school office by telephone or email for further details.

Wrap Around Care at Heron Hill School

We can also provide school-led wrap around care before and after school and in the school holidays. This provision takes place in the nursery building and outdoor area.

Before school:

Parents can choose to drop off at school at any time from 7.30 am, which will cost £4.25 per day. The cost to drop off your child from 8.00 am is reduced to £3.60 per day. Breakfast is available (Not included in the second session, but can be added at a charge of £0.65) and will include a variety of cereals, toast with various toppings, fruit and drinks.

At 8.45 am your child will be handed directly to their nursery teacher. All children will be registered in and out of Before School provision.

After school:

Nursery children will remain in the nursery and a formal handover will take place between nursery and after school staff. Snacks and drinks will be available for children during the session.

Parents can choose to collect their children at any time up to the close of the session at 6.00 pm, at a cost of £7.00 per day, but if your child is collected by 4.00 pm, the cost is £3.25 per day.

There is a reduced daily charge for each additional child in the family.

If you have available nursery funded hours, these can be used for wrap around care.

School Holidays:

Childcare provision is available during the school holidays for all children who attend our school. This costs £24.00 for a whole day, £12.50 for a half day. (The club will be closed between Christmas and New Year and on all Bank Holidays.)

A booking form is available from nursery and from the school office.



Open Door Policy

Please feel free to visit the school to talk to the Headteacher, Head of Department or a member of the nursery team if you have anything that you wish to discuss. You are always welcome!



Heron Hill Primary School Vision

Vision Statement

learning together. playing together. growing together

Aims and Ethos

We want each and every child at Heron Hill to:

- ☞ Feel happy and safe*
- ☞ Respect and value themselves and others*
- ☞ Celebrate diversity in school, our community and beyond*
- ☞ Succeed through challenging and inspirational learning*
- ☞ Grow into independent and responsible individuals*
- ☞ Develop a lasting appetite for learning and to look forward to their future with confidence*

We know every child is different and every child in our care is treated as an individual. Our dedicated and experienced staff encourage children to believe, achieve and succeed. We want our children to think big and adopt an 'I can' attitude, be tenacious, resilient and have a go.

Finally... research has shown when parents and early years settings work closely together, children make better progress.

So we look forward to working with you and your child.

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